



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

Lisa M. Morris
Director

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-4501 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4501
Fax: 603-271-4827 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964
www.dhhs.nh.gov

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Medical and religious exemptions in all New Hampshire Schools:

The NH Law states that a student can have a religious or medical exemption to required school immunization requirements. The exact wording of the statute (law) for both medical and religious exemptions is noted here: Section-141-C:20-c Exemptions – A child shall be exempt from immunization if:

- I. A physician licensed under RSA 329, or a physician exempted under RSA 329:21, III, certifies that immunization against a particular disease may be detrimental to the child's health. The exemption shall exist only for the length of time, in the opinion of the physician; such immunization would be detrimental to the child. An exemption from immunization for one disease shall not affect other required immunizations.
- II. A parent or legal guardian objects to immunization because of religious beliefs. The parent or legal guardian shall sign a notarized form stating that the child has not been immunized because of religious beliefs.

Medical Exemption:

To receive an exemption of immunization for medical reasons from vaccines in a school, the parent or legal guardian of the child must acquire written documentation from a licensed physician or authorized health care provider that certifies that immunization against a particular disease may be detrimental to the child's health. The exemption shall only exist only for the length of time; such immunization would be detrimental to the child.

Here are a couple examples of medical exemptions that you may encounter:

- An individual with an allergy to a vaccine component;
- An individual receiving chemotherapy.

In the examples noted above, an individual with an allergy to a vaccine component may have a permanent contraindication for receipt of the vaccine(s), whereas the individual receiving chemotherapy may have a temporary contraindication to receipt of the vaccine(s). In both instances, the exemption length of time is at the direction of the licensed physician or authorized health care provider.

Religious Exemptions:

A parent or legal guardian who objects to a vaccine or vaccines because of religious beliefs for their child must provide a signed and notarized Religious Exemption form. This document can be for one or more vaccines or all vaccines.

If your students have medical or religious exemptions that do not meet this definition, prompt follow up is necessary to clarify their exemption status. If you have any questions, please call the NH Immunization Program at: 603-271-4482.